

REMARKS

Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for his comments. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this patent application, particularly in view of the following remarks. Currently, Claims 1, 2, 4-22, and 49-60 are pending, with Claims 49-60 withdrawn from consideration.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of the liquid-permeable nonwoven material also being permeable to sand. Support for this limitation is provided, for example, at page 20, lines 11-13. Claim 1 has been further amended by deleting the statement that the garment is a swimwear liner, since this limitation is redundant in view of the remaining limitation of the garment being worn beneath swimwear, and adding that the garment is not directly attached to the swimwear, which is consistent with the term "stand-alone" as used throughout the specification.

Claim 61 has been added to recite an embodiment wherein the garment is a single-layer garment. Support for this limitation is provided, for example, at page 14, lines 15-17, and at page 20, line 13.

Claim 62 has been added to recite an embodiment wherein the garment is not worn in the absence of a separate swimwear garment. Support for this limitation is provided, for example, at page 19, lines 18-20.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment. No additional fee is due for this Amendment because the number of independent claims remains unchanged and the total number of claims is less than the total number of claims originally filed.

Christoffel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,582,412)

Applicants' claims are patentably distinguishable from the Christoffel et al. reference. The Christoffel et al. reference fails to disclose or suggest a stand-alone disposable garment that is worn beneath swimwear and is not directly attached to the swimwear. The Christoffel et al. reference also fails to disclose or suggest such

a garment that includes a liquid-permeable nonwoven material that is permeable to sand.

Conclusion

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Melanie I. Rauch
Registration No. 40,924

Pauley Petersen & Erickson
2800 West Higgins Road, Suite 365
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60195
(847) 490-1400
FAX (847) 490-1403